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(54) Title: VIRAL RECOMBINANT VECTORS FOR EXPRESSION IN MUSCLE CELLS

EA FB-

(54) Titre: VECTEURS RECOMBINANTS VIRAUX POUR L'EXPRESSION DANS DES CELLULES MUSCULAIRES

### (57) Abstract

Non-replicatable viral recombinant vectors which are recognizable by muscle cell receptors, and furthermore modified by an insertion nucleic acid coding for a polypeptide sequence to be expressed in said muscle cells, are used to obtain a drug for treating muscle cell diseases or diseases which, by virtue of their location in the body, are accessible to the products of the expression of the above mentioned nucleotide sequence, as secreted by said muscle cells. A method for producing said vectors, vectors such as those described above, and their use in pharmaceutical compositions are also provided.

## (57) Abrégé

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L'invention concerne l'utilisation de vecteurs recombinants d'origine virale, non réplicables, et susceptibles d'être reconnus par les récepteurs de cellules musculaires, ces vecteurs étant en outre modifiés par un acide nucléique

PLASHIDE SOUS FORME LINEALDE A..LINEAR PLASMID D. VOEBOAIERZ CEMONE **B..ADENOVIRUS GENOME** IRALIC PAR CLA I TREATED WITH Cla I В C.. 1 UNIT = 360 pb 100 Ad-RSV-Bgal 1 MMI16 . 360 pb

d'insertion codant pour une séquence polypeptidique dont l'expression dans lesdites cellules musculaires est recherchée, pour l'obtention d'un médicament destiné au traitement de pathologies affectant les cellules musculaires ou de pathologies dont la localisation dans l'organisme les rendent accessibles aux produits de l'expression de la séquence nucléotidique sus-mentionnée secrétés par lesdites cellules musculaires. L'invention concerne également un procédé d'obtention de ces vecteurs, et des vecteurs tels que décrits ci-dessus et leur utilisation dans des compositions pharmaceutiques.

VECTEURS RECOMBINANTS VIRAUX POUR L'EXPRESSION DANS DES CELLULES MUSCULAIRES

L'invention concerne des vecteurs recombinants d'origine virale comportant une séquence nucléotidique codant pour un polypeptide déterminé, et leur utilisation pour l'expression de ce polypeptide dans des cellules musculaires. L'invention vise également un procédé d'obtention de ces vecteurs, ainsi que leurs applications, notamment en tant que médicaments dans le domaine des pathologies musculaires.

Le problème, non résolu jusqu'à maintenant, de la diffusion directe d'un gène vers un tissu spécifique, fait obstacle au développement de la thérapie génique dans le domaine des maladies musculaires.

Les diverses tentatives de modification du tissu musculaire réalisées jusqu'à ce jour sont principalement celle de la fusion de cellules musculaires avec un muscle hôte (Salminen, A., et al., Hum. Gene Ther. 2, 15-26 (1991); Partridge, T.A., et al., Nature 337, 176-179 (1989)), et celle procédant injection d'ADN directement dans les muscles (Wolff, J.A. et al. Science 247, 1465-1468 (1991); Acsadi, G., New Biol. 3, 71-81 (1991)).

La méthode procédant par fusion, chez des souris, de précurseurs de cellules musculaires provenant d'un donneur normal, avec des fibres musculaires d'un hôte (Partridge, T.A., et al. cité ci-dessus) a été réalisée avec succès et cette thérapie cellulaire a fait l'objet d'essais préliminaires chez des enfants. Toutefois, cette approche semble présenter trop d'inconvénients pour être applicable au traitement de pathologies musculaires. En effet, les capacités de

circulation sanguine, tout en protégeant ces acides nucléiques de l'agression de divers constituants sanguins.

Un autre but de la présente invention est de mettre à la disposition du public des compositions pharmaceutiques permettant le traitement des maladies musculaires, et plus particulièrement des pathologies génétiques du système musculaire, ou encore de pathologies dont la localisation dans l'organisme les rendent accessibles aux produits de l'expression des acides nucléiques sus-mentionnés, ces produits étant secrétés par lesdites cellules musculaires.

La présente invention découle de la découverte faite par les inventeurs, du fait que l'on retrouve l'activité  $\beta$ -galactosidase dans de nombreux tissus après injection à des souris de vecteurs recombinants d'origine virale, plus particulièrement d'adénovirus, dans le génome desquels a été inséré le gène codant pour la  $\beta$ -galactosidase. Parmi ces tissus, on peut citer les poumons, le foie, l'intestin, le coeur et les muscles du squelette. L'expression du gène de la  $\beta$ -galactosidase est constante dans le temps, puisque de cellules couleur proportion des (coloration obtenue à la suite de l'expression de ce gène) dans le tissu musculaire est à peu près équivalente d'un mois à un autre.

La figure 1 représente un exemple de construction d'un vecteur recombinant selon l'invention et correspondant à l'adénovirus de type Ad5 dans le génome duquel est inséré le gène de la  $\beta$ -galactosidase sous le controle du promoteur RSV.

La présente invention a pour objet l'utilisation de vecteurs recombinants d'origine virale, non réplicables, et susceptibles d'être reconnus par les récepteurs de cellules musculaires, humaines ou animales, infectables par ces virus, ces vecteurs

A titre d'exemples d'autres promoteurs dont l'utilisation peut être envisagée, on mentionnera :

- le promoteur du gène IE de CMV (cytomégalovirus)
- les promoteurs inductibles MMTV (Mouse Mammary Tumor Virus) ou métallothionine.

La force du promoteur utilisable peut être appréciée dans des essais semblables à ceux qui sont décrits dans les exemples qui suivent, par exemple par substitution dans les vecteurs de ces exemples du promoteur étudié au promoteur contenu dans le LTR de RSV et par l'évaluation de l'intensité d'expression du marqueur obtenu, intensité qui peut alors être comparée à celle obtenue avec le promoteur de LTR de RSV.

La quantité de vecteurs administrée dans l'organisme est avantageusement choisie de manière à déborder le système immunitaire de l'organisme dans lequel ils sont injectés.

Avantageusement la voie d'administration choisie dans le cadre de la présente invention est la voie intra-veineuse ou intra-artérielle.

Parmi les pathologies affectant des cellules musculaires sus-mentionnées, on peut citer des pathologies génétiques telles que la dystrophie musculaire.

A ce titre l'acide nucléique inséré dans le génome du vecteur viral, et dont est recherchée la diffusion dans la masse musculaire, comprend un séquence nucléotidique codant pour un polypeptide susceptible de traiter la pathologie en question, et plus particulièrement de jouer le rôle dans la cellule musculaire du polypeptide normalement présent dans une cellule saine, mais dont la déficience est due soit à une production anormalement faible, voire nulle, de ce polypeptide, soit à une erreur dans sa séquence en

dont est recherchée la diffusion dans la masse musculaire, cet acide nucléique étant placé sous le controle d'un promoteur susceptible d'être reconnu par les polymérases des cellules musculaires, notamment le promoteur fort de la région précoce EIA du génome des adénovirus.

Un vecteur recombinant préféré de l'invention est caractérisé en ce que cet acide nucléique recombinant est constitué de tout ou partie du gène de la dystrophine.

L'invention concerne également des compositions pharmaceutiques comprenant un ou plusieurs vecteurs recombinants tels que décrits ci-dessus, en association avec un véhicule pharmaceutiquement acceptable.

L'invention a également pour objet un procédé d'obtention des vecteurs recombinants décrits cidessus qui comprend après l'étape de construction proprement dite de ces vecteurs par introduction de l'acide nucléique d'insertion dans leur génome, une étape de transformation đе lignées cellulaires transformables d'eucaryotes supérieurs (notamment d'origine humaine ou animale) comportant elles-mêmes séquence distincte de nucléotides complémenter la partie du génome de l'adénovirus essentielle pour la réplication de ce dernier et dont susdit vecteur est dépourvu, ladite séquence distincte étant de préférence incorporée au génome des cellules de ladite lignée cellulaire.

A titre d'exemple préféré de telles lignées cellulaires, on mentionnera la lignée 293, lignée de rein embryonnaire humain qui contient, intégrés dans son génome, les onze premiers pourcents de l'extrémité gauche du génome d'un Ad5. Ceux-ci permettent de complémenter des virus recombinants défectifs qui portent des délétions de cette région. Un tel procédé

l'adénovirus d1324 traité par l'enzyme de restriction ClaI (correspondant à un mutant de délétion E3; la délétion étant effectuée entre les positions 78,4 et 84,3 du génome de l'adénovirus représenté sur transfection figure 1), après de cellules (cellules embryonnaires humaines de rein transformées par l'adénovirus et mentionnées ci-dessus) afin de générer le vecteur recombinant Ad-RSV-βgal. nlslacZ est contrôlé par le promoteur RSV LTR et possède le signal de polyadénylation du virus SV40. Le virus recombinant ainsi obtenu est incapable de se répliquer en raison de la délétion des gènes El.

2. Etude du transfert du gène par l'intermédiaire de l'adénovirus aux organes de souris.

Des souris Balb/C agées de 4 jours ont subi une intra-veineuse 20-40 injection de microlitres d'adénovirus recombinants hautement purifiés, Ad-RSV- $\beta$ gal (10° unités formant des plages : UFP/ml) les organes ont été prélevés 15 jours après injection et traités avec du paraformaldéhyde 4% dans un tampon phosphate pendant 30 minutes. Après rinçage les organes ont été incubés pendant une nuit à 30°C dans une solution X-gal. Les organes entiers ont ensuite été congelés et préparés de manière appropriée pour effectuer des cryosections (de 10 micromètres d'épaisseur), sections qui ont été colorées à l'aide d'hématoxyline et d'éosine.

La mise en évidence par coloration histochimique de la manière indiquée ci-dessus de l'activité  $\beta$ -galactosidase sur les sections effectuées indique la présence dans les cellules des organes prélevés du gène inséré dans l'adénovirus vecteur.

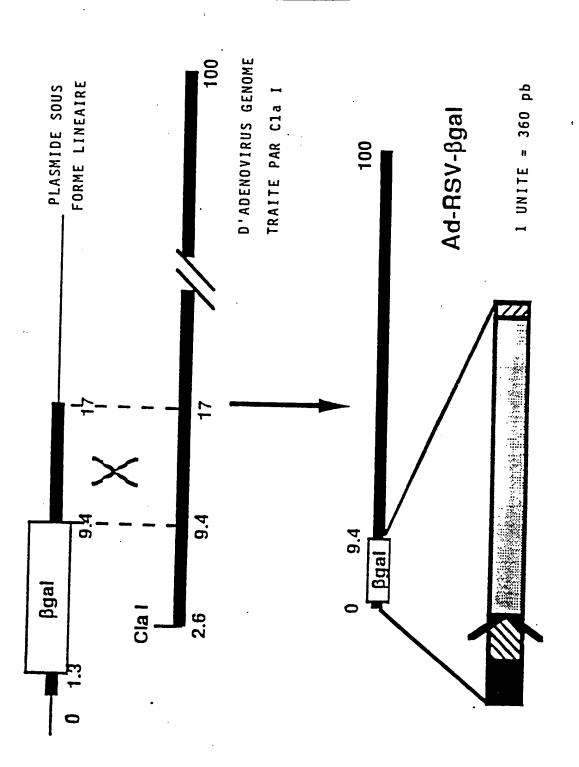
L'examen macrocospique du coeur ainsi que des muscles du squelette prélevés sur ces souris traitées, révèle la grande efficacité avec laquelle a été effectué ce transfert de gène après seulement une

#### REVENDICATIONS

- Utilisation de vecteurs recombinants d'origine virale, non réplicables, et susceptibles d'être reconnus par les récepteurs de cellules musculaires, humaines ou animales, infectables par ces virus, ces vecteurs étant en outre modifiés par un acide nucléique d'insertion contenant une séquence nucléotidique codant pour une séquence polypeptidique dont l'expression dans lesdites cellules musculaires est recherchée, cette séquence étant sous le contrôle d'un promoteur reconnu par les polymérases de ces cellules. pour 1'obtention d'un médicament administrable par la voie générale, notamment intraveineuse ou intra-artérielle, et destiné au traitement de pathologies affectant les cellules musculaires ou de pathologies dont la localisation dans l'organisme les rendent accessibles aux produits de l'expression de la séquence nucléotidique sus-mentionnée secrétés par lesdites cellules musculaires.
- 2. Utilisation de vecteurs selon la revendication 1, caractérisée en ce que ces vecteurs sont choisis parmi les adénovirus défectifs dont les génomes sont dépourvus de séquences essentielles nécessaires à la réplication de ces adénovirus, et plus particulièrement des transactivateurs EA et EB.
- 3. Utilisation de vecteurs selon la revendication 1 ou la revendication 2, caractérisée en ce que l'acide nucléique d'insertion est compris dans un génome défectif d'adénovirus comprenant néanmoins l'ensemble de celles des séquences essentielles nécessaires à l'encapsidation de ces adénovirus.
- 4. Utilisation de vecteurs selon l'une des revendications 1 à 3, caractérisée en ce que l'acide nucléique d'insertion est constitué de tout ou partie d'un gène sain de la dystrophine.

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FIGURE 1



# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/FR 92/00898

Int.Cl. 5 C12N15/86; A61K48/00; C12N15/12; C12N9/68 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC  B. FIELDS SEARCHED  Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  Int.Cl. 5 C12N; A61K; C07K  Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  Electronic data base constituted during the international search (pame of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT  Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages   Relevant to claim N  X. COLLOQUE INSERM (HUMAN GENE TRANSFER.   1–5,7  INTERNATIONAL MORKSHOP)  Vol. 219, 11 April 1991, PARIS, FRANCE  pages 271 – 272  QUANTIN, B. ET AL. 'Adenovirus as an  expression vector in muscle cells  application to dystrophin'  see the whole document  Y. COLLOQUE INSERM (HUMAN GENE TRANFER,   1–9  INTERNATIONAL MORKSHOP)  Vol. 219, 11 April 1991, PARIS, FRANCE  pages 51 – 61  STRATFORD-PERRICAUDET, L. & PERRICAUDET,  M. 'Gene tranfer into animals: the  promise of adenovirus and some continuation of Box C.   See patent family annex.  ** Special exceptors of cited documents: /  Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.   See patent family annex.  ** Special exceptors of cited documents: /  Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.   See patent family annex.  ** Special exceptors of cited documents: /  Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.   See patent family annex.  ** Special exceptors of cited documents: /  Further documents are listed of the an which is not considered to be of patents as application but cited to understate to be of particular party annex.  ** Special exceptors of cited documents: / /  Further documents are listed of the ten which is not considered to be of patents as a patent of the continuation of Box C.   See		ACCUTCATION OF COMPANY		
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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP)  Vol. 219, 11 April 1991, PARIS, FRANCE pages 271 - 272 QUANTIN, B. ET AL. 'Adenovirus as an expression vector in muscle cells application to dystrophin' see the whole document  Y COLLOQUE INSERM (HUMAN GENE TRANFER, INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP) Vol. 219, 11 April 1991, PARIS, FRANCE pages 51 - 61 STRATFORD-PERRICAUDET, L. & PERRICAUDET, M. 'Gene tranfer into animals: the promise of adenovirus' see the whole document X see page 56, line 40 - page 57, line 2 see the whole document X see page 58, line 4 - line 45   Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.  Special categories of cited documents:  A- document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance:   Special categories of cited documents:   See page 58, line 4 - line 45    T later document published after the international filling date and not in conflict with the application but cited to underest to be of particular relevance: the chained invention cannot be considered to considered or cannot be considered or cannot be considered to involve an invention cannot considered to considered or cannot be considered or cannot be considered to involve an invention cannot considered to particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot considered to particular relevance:    See page 58, line 4 - line 45     See page 58, line 4 - line 45     See page 58, line 4 - line 45     See page 58, line 4 - line 45     See page 58, line 4 - line 45     See page 58, line 4 - line 45    See page 58, line 4 - line 45    See page 58, line 4 - line 45    See page 58, line 4 - line 45     See page 58, line 4 - line 45     See page 58, line 4 - line 45    See page 58, line 4 - line 45     See page 58, line 4 - line 45    -	Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where	appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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## ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO. FR 9200898 SA 65339

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on

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## RAPPORT DE RECHERCHE INTERNATIONALE

Demande Internationale No

PCT/FR 92/00898

I. CLASSE	MENT DE L'INVENT	TON (s) plusieu	rs symboles de classificado	on sont applicables, les indiq	uer tous) 7	
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# ANNEXE AU RAPPORT DE RECHERCHE INTERNATIONALE RELATIF A LA DEMANDE INTERNATIONALE NO.

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La présente annexe indique les membres de la famille de brevets relatifs aux documents brevets cités dans le rapport de recherche internationale vise ci-dessus.

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